

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library
May 20, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Chioldi (BC) - Chair
Ed Rousse (SHS) – Vice Chair
Victoria Pompei (BT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joe Blakely (SHS)
Chris Riddell (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Jacquelyn Ramsay-Tolman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal (SHS)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Karen Heath Tamara Cooley Paul Malone Sonya Spaulding

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Chioldi, called the Monday, May 20, 2019, meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Discussion of the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) will be incorporated into discussion of Agenda Item 8 (Review of Consolidated Federal Grant Programs).

3. Review / Approval of Minutes – March 25, 2019 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Rousse, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the March 25, 2019 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting and the Minutes of the April 22, 2019 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting.

4. Review / Approval of Minutes – April 22, 2019 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting

Approved under Agenda Item 3.

5. Visitors and Communications

None.

6. Homework Committee Findings and Recommendations

Mrs. Tolman advised that the Homework Committee was formed after a presentation from all schools identified vastly different practices relating to the assignment of homework. The Homework Committee utilized the Learning Community Action Plan Template. Mrs. Tolman advised that historically there has been inequity for students across classrooms and grades, and that teachers had no specific guidance relating to the assignment of homework. There is a need for consistency, clear expectations, and the cultivation of opportunities for students to develop lifelong habits of learning. Mrs. Tolman advised regarding the process utilized by the Committee, including meetings, surveys, and research. Surveys included input from parents, students and staff. There was a large response to the survey. Research included seeking out unbiased articles. Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the Committee's hopes, fears, research summarization, a review of survey results, and alternative forms of homework. It was noted that Math Nights are very popular, and perhaps additional 'nights' should be scheduled, e.g. Science Nights. It was also noted that online games can be very beneficial. The Committee recommends homework proposals by grade groups (K – 4, 5 – 8, and high school). Mrs. Tolman queried the Committee regarding how to move forward, and whether or not they felt this process/outcome meets board member goals. It was agreed that a policy should be drafted, outlining homework practices by grade group. The policy could be finalized and submitted to the Policy Committee for review at their June meeting. If approved First and Second Readings could be held at the July and August BUUSD Board Meetings, with consideration of piloting the elementary portion of the policy during the 2019 – 2020 academic year.

7. SHS Library Renovations

Mrs. Tolman presented a Power Point Presentation titled SHS Library Renovation – A Blending of Tradition and Innovation for the 21st Century. The presentation included an overview of the mission, rationale for updating the library, public perceptions of school libraries, ‘today’s reality’ (a bright lively space that is busy and noisy), libraries used as learning spaces (student centered, active and noisy, and provision of opportunities for exploration), library use statistics, modern libraries (flexible spaces with well-selected resources, adaptable furniture, current technology, collaborative services, and well trained staff), the importance of student centered space, and the renovation which is anticipated to be completed in three phases. Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the phases, including a preview of the new floor layout and new window to the hallway. It was noted that the new open floor plan will provide flexibility of seating and work areas, and increases safety, as spaces will be more visible to library staff. The open floor design will include the ‘Tom Sedor Reading Nook and Seating Area’, a ‘Standing and Career Area’, a new circulation desk, and collaborative/meeting area. Phase II will introduce new resources, new furniture, and an audio/visual room. It is anticipated that the audio/visual room will provide students and faculty with technology to support learning, flexible pathways, proficiency based learning, and allow for podcasts, music, and audiovisual presentations. Phase III will involve the creation of ‘Makerspace’ which will provide a variety of tools and technology (high tech and low tech) to provide students and educators with the opportunity to create, innovate, and play. The library is going through a purge process, and will begin packing books in June. Librarian Christine Smith will be looking into securing grants to assist with the various phases.

8. Review Consolidated Federal Grant Programs

A document titled ‘Barre Supervisory Union Continuous Improvement Plan / Summary’ was distributed. The document was created by Ben Merrill to provide an overview of the CIP in user friendly language. It was noted that the Continuous Improvement Plan was previously distributed to the BUUSD Board. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she believes the Board needs a better understanding of the CIP in order to understand what our schools need, and to see that the needs are met (appropriate budgeting). Mrs. Tolman advised that the CIP ties into and is aligned with the CFP grant. The focus of last year’s CIP was alignment amongst the schools, and that alignment is being strengthened this year. Data is a very important factor for many aspects of the plan and is involved in every action step. It was noted that the CIP goals remain the same, but the ‘road to accomplish’ the goals is different. More concrete data will be available next year. Performance Indicators (under ESSA) are very important. Mrs. Tolman advised that the State did not provide the detailed breakdown of SBAC data that is normally provided. CIP goals involve meeting academic and social/emotional needs of students. There is a new ‘all hands on deck’ philosophy (a culture of shared responsibility for all learners). Instruction is based on the best instructional fit, rather than on scheduled availability. The number of coaching staff is being expanded in FY20. Curriculum coaches are currently attending training. It was reiterated that more data should be available next year. Mrs. Tolman stressed the importance of understanding the grants’ allowable activities in order to use grant funds in the CIP. Mrs. Tolman provided a brief overview of the various Title grants. Mrs. Waterhouse advised that students recently traveled to California (Silicon Valley) to give a presentation on concussion related head gear that they created at The Generator (Makerspace in Burlington). Mrs. Tolman advised that grant funds are also available to administrators for professional development and training. Mrs. Pompei advised that she would like the 2020/2021 Continuous Improvement Plan to include items that will benefit exceptional/gifted students.

9. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

The next meeting is Monday, June 24, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. The location is to be determined. Mrs. Waterhouse will not be available.

Agenda Items:

Assessments

Mrs. Waterhouse advised that this evening, she attended the SPED Life Skills Department’s Annual performance. The performance was wonderful and very well attended.

Mrs. Waterhouse advised that she believes it would be most beneficial to have a grant writer. Mrs. Spaulding advised that a few years ago, money was budgeted for grant writing services, but the money was not spent.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Rouse, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin